# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009



**Sunday, August 3, 2025**

## No relief from this court: What are the contingency plans referenced by the chancellor?

From the NY Times: *A federal judge in New York declined in a ruling on Friday to order the Trump administration to restore hundreds of millions of dollars in terminated funding that had been awarded to research institutions by the National Science Foundation. The ruling came in a lawsuit filed in May in which a coalition of 16 states argued that the grants were critical to maintaining the United States as a leader in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, subjects, and that the cuts were "in complete derogation of the policies and priorities set by Congress." The science foundation had announced policy changes meant to align its mission with that of the broader Trump administration. The changes included updating what the plaintiffs call the foundation's priority directive to exclude the funding of activities related to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.*

*The suit asked the court to find the foundation's new priority directive unconstitutional and to issue an injunction blocking further cuts to universities and other higher education institutions. The judge, John P. Cronan of Federal District Court in Manhattan, found that the court lacked jurisdiction to hear the suit because it sought monetary damages from the federal government. Such cases, he wrote, must be brought before the Court of Federal Claims in Washington. In his 78-page opinion, the judge also noted that plaintiffs seeking an injunction must, among other things, show a likelihood of success on the merits of a case. The states had not done that, he said...*

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/01/nyregion/nsf-trump-stem-research-cuts.html.

In his video message to the campus (see below), Chancellor Frenk referenced a contingency plan that UCLA has put in place for federal research cuts. But he gives no hint as to what that plan is, and in fact seems to say that there is a special committee meeting daily to come up with a plan. The reference to a contingency plan is at minute 1:34 - 1:56.

Or direct to https://ia902901.us.archive.org/7/items/newsom-7-2-2025-arrests-of-immigrants/UCLA%20Chancellor%20Frenk%20on%20loss%20of%20funding.mp4.

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It might be noted that there are certain parallels between UCLA and Columbia. Both had encampments that led to external police intervention and much surrounding national publicity as a result. Both later came in conflict with the Trump administration, in part because of those events. Columbia, as blog readers will know, eventually made a deal with the administration to restore funding with a penalty payment of $221 million. But Columbia is administered privately by a board of trustees. UCLA is a public institution and part of a larger system administered by a Board of Regents. The Regents include *ex officio* members such as the governor (who has been running a campaign against Trump and a non-campaign for a presidential run in 2028). While the political *ex officio* Regents have only one vote each and could in theory be outvoted by the other Regents, it is hard to imagine that happening. In any case, it is hard to imagine the non-political Regents being OK with large payments to the feds - particularly during a budget squeeze. Thus, it is hard to imagine there is a majority of votes on the Regents for a Columbia-type deal.

**The Council of UC Faculty Associations**

- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions

**Remaking the University**

- The coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the University of California and the Californian economy - 8/26/2025
- Liner Note 37. Chicago's Gift to Trump - 8/24/2025
- Liner Note 36. UCLA in the Extortion Machine - 8/10/2025

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- UC-AFT

**Topics**

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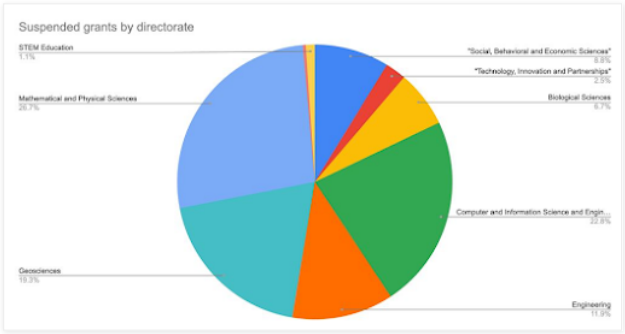
While UCLA and UC might use available resources to keep researchers with frozen grants going for a short time, that is not a sustainable solution. As noted above, counting on the courts to fix the situation is iffy at best, although some other court might eventually reverse the freeze on funding for existing grants. But even that type of decision would leave the question of grant renewals and new grants on the table. Relief from non-renewals and unfavorable treatment of new proposals will be still harder to obtain from courts.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UCLA

**Saturday, August 2, 2025**

## NSF Fund Suspensions




From Inside Higher Ed: *...An NSF spokesperson said that [UCLA's] awards "are not in alignment with current NSF priorities and/or programmatic goals," though they didn't offer more specifics. NSF changed its priorities in April and, as a result, cut off funding to programs related to diversity, equity and inclusion and those aimed at combating misinformation.*

*Freelance journalist Dan Garisto* wrote on BlueSky that nearly 300 grants at UCLA are now suspended. That includes a $25 million grant that supports the university's Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics. (In 2022, UCLA had about 450 grants from the NSF, totaling more than $350 million.) ...*

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/08/01/national-science-foundation-suspends-grants-ucla.

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*The chart above is from Garisto:

https://bsky.app/profile/dangaristo.bsky.social/post/3lvbpcl4ais2q.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

## Frankel Case Settles for Well Over $6 Million - Part 2 (Legal costs?)

A few days ago, we posted about the settlement to the Frankel case which involved a payout by the university of $6,450,000 to the plaintiffs, their lawyers, and various organizations.* However, that sum is the direct cost. It also cost the university money to arrive at that settlement.

How much? Yours truly has no idea. But it is interesting that the university used outside counsel on this case. At the link to our initial report, you will also find a link to the actual settlement document. And on it, you will find a listing of the lawyers involved.

Note that there were five outside lawyers listed - see below - in LA, New York, Washington, DC, and San Francisco from the prestigious and expensive lawfirm, O'Melveny & Myers, as well as three from inside UC. The outsiders couldn't have been cheap.

MATTHEW R. COWAN

O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP

Los Angeles, California

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ANTON METLITSKY

JENNIFER SOKOLER

O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP

New York, NY

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The Regents of the University of California

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/07/frenkel-case-settles-for-well-over-6.html.

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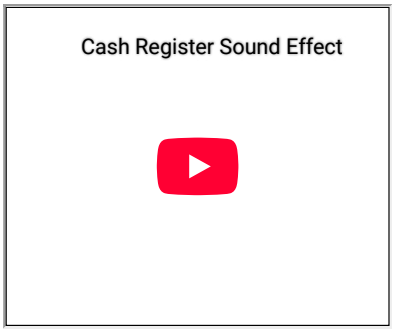


Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/shorts/1aHvBSJsXqo.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UC Regents, UCLA

## Straws in the Wind - Part 58

From The Assembly: *The University of North Carolina System's Board of Governors has directed the board of trustees at each campus to form a new subcommittee that will scrutinize compliance with diversity, equity, and inclusion policies...*

*The new trustee committees will receive briefings from their chancellor or the responsible senior administrator on training provided to staff about the equality policy, the responsibilities of any roles that were reassigned to other work, and the performance of "relevant" personnel. The panels will also receive reports on "updated institutional webpages and mission statements for programs, curriculum, and objectives." ...*

*The directive also comes after Accuracy in Media, a conservative advocacy group, released secretly recorded videos from several UNC campuses that captured administrators talking about DEI efforts. Most of the administrators featured in the videos are no longer employed at those institutions, though the schools haven't said whether they resigned or were fired. Republican state lawmakers have pointed to the videos as proof that DEI-related activities are continuing on campuses in violation of the UNC System's policies...*

*The memo directed these new subcommittees to hold open-session briefings from chancellors on DEI compliance... "These confidential reviews should compare an individual's prior position to his or her new responsibilities, including how the employee's performance in that role has changed, and what safeguards exist to ensure an employee's previous responsibilities do not continue in the present role... "Confidential briefings from the chancellor on any disciplinary action taken against personnel should occur at this time as well." ...*

Full story at https://www.theassemblync.com/education/higher-education/unc-board-of-governors-dei-compliance/.

From the Huffington Post: *Brown University... announced a deal with the Trump administration to regain access to federal research funding and end investigations into alleged discrimination.*

*The Ivy League school agreed to pay $50 million to workforce development organizations in Rhode Island over 10 years as part of the agreement, along with other concessions in line with*

*President Donald Trump's political agenda. Brown will adopt the government's definition of "male" and "female," for example, and must remove any consideration of race from the admissions process.*

*The three-year deal has numerous similarities with one signed last week by Columbia University that the government called a roadmap for other universities. Unlike that agreement, however, Brown's does not include an outside monitor.*

*The agreement with Brown restores dozens of grants and contracts that had been suspended during an investigation into Brown's handling of allegations of antisemitism, including during pro-Palestinian protests on campus last spring. It also calls for the federal government to reimburse Brown for $50 million in unpaid federal grant costs.*

*Brown agreed to several measures aimed at addressing allegations of antisemitism on its campus in Providence, Rhode Island. The school said it will renew partnerships with Israeli academics and encourage Jewish day school students to apply to Brown. By the end of this year, Brown must hire an outside organization — to be chosen jointly by Brown and the government — to conduct a campus survey on the climate for Jewish students.*

*Education Secretary Linda McMahon said Brown's deal ensures students will be judged "solely on their merits, not their race or sex." ...*

Full story at https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ap-us-trump-education-brown_n_688a8d56e4b07dfa117f1e76.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University, Columbia, diversity, politics, U of North Carolina

## UCAD

*Back in April, the systemwide Academic Senate created "The Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD)." The acronym maybe wasn't the best name for a committee, but what do I know? Anyway, the "disruptions" to which it referred weren't encampments or that kind of thing. We seem to have moved on from that. No, the disruptions in question were (are) the various directives and funding cuts coming out of Washington, DC. The charge to the task force is below:*

**Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD)**

April 8, 2025

**Overarching Goal**

The Task Force on UCAD will develop response strategies that aim to uphold the teaching and education, research and discovery, and public service mission areas of the University of California in the context of disruptive federal executive orders, uncertain federal and state partnerships, and evolving shifts in the higher education landscape.

**Task Force Charge Goal**

The Task Force will conduct relevant analyses and align its planning efforts with UC's longstanding commitment to access, inclusivity, and excellence. The focus will be on assessing current serious threats and developing viable response options across multiple scenarios in each of the following four priority areas:

1. Restructuring of academic programs,
2. Resizing of programs and the workforce,
3. Recalibration of growth objectives, and
4. Realignment of funding sources with mission activities

As core functions of the University and deeply held institutional values are at risk, the Task Force will address these areas both independently and in relation to one another, recognizing their interconnected impacts. The scope of analysis may well extend beyond those listed above, but immediate attention should be given to these priority areas based on the potential harm that could come to students, faculty, staff, and healthcare patients in the near term.

The Task Force is expected to approach issues analytically, with data whenever possible, and to contribute ideas to near-term academic and operations restructuring, as well as recommendations for long-term planning. The Task Force should draw on the expertise of Academic Senate and administrative leaders and consider a broad array of perspectives through timely consultative outreach and engagement beyond its membership, as needed.

**Task Force Membership**

1. Ahmet Palazoglu, Systemwide Academic Senate Vice Chair & Task Force Chair
2. Steven W. Cheung, Systemwide Academic Senate Chair & UCSF

3. Tim Groeling, UCPB Chair (Alternate: Robert Brosnan, UCPB Vice Chair)

4. Susanne Nicholas, UCORP Chair (Alternate: Jim Weatherall, UCORP Vice Chair)

5. James Bisley, CCGA Chair

6. Kristen Holmquist, UCAADE Vice Chair

7. Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, UCFW Chair

8. Nael Abu-Ghazaleh, UCAP Chair

9. Amani Nuru-Jeter, UCB Senate Division Chair

10. Kathy Bawn, UCLA Senate Division Chair

11. Olivia Graeve, UCSD Senate Division Chair

12. Matt McCarthy, UCSC Senate Division Chair

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**Administration Consultants**

1. Katherine Newman, Provost & Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

2. Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

3. Theresa Maldonado, Vice President, Research & Innovation

4. Alex Bustamante, Senior Vice President & Chief Compliance and Audit Officer

5. Yvette Gullatt, Vice President & Vice Provost, Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs

6. David Rubin, Executive Vice President, UC Health

7. Jody Stiger, Director, Systemwide Community Safety

8. Allison Woodall, UC Legal

--

**Task Force Staff Support**

1. Monica Lin, Systemwide Academic Senate

2. Michael LaBriola, Systemwide Academic Senate

3. Stefani Leto, Systemwide Academic Senate

4. Ken Feer, Systemwide Academic Senate

**Timeline & Deliverables**

The Task Force will deliver recommendations on an ad hoc basis, as needed, to UCOP leadership and an interim report to the Academic Council by **July 16, 2025**, in advance of a planned discussion of the report at the Council's July 23 meeting. UCAD membership and subsequent milestones and/or deliverables will be determined moving forward, given uncertainties in the political landscape.

Source: https://ucop.app.box.com/s/wndf3lk968gajbr3i469s94ysluwajgp.

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There was also an official announcement once the task force was formed:

Ahmet Palazoglu

Vice Chair, UC Academic Council

ahmet.palazoglu@ucop.edu

Academic Senate Division Chairs

Academic Senate Executive Directors

April 22, 2025

**RE: Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD)**

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to announce the formation of a new systemwide Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD). This task force was established by the Academic Council in recognition of the need to proactively consider how the University can uphold its teaching, research, and public service missions in the face of potentially severe and unpredictable external disruptions.

UCAD's goal is to develop response strategies that safeguard the University's core functions amid federal executive actions, shifting partnerships with federal and state governments, and other changes in the higher education landscape. To this end, the task force is charged with analyzing impacts and developing response strategies in four key areas:

1. Restructuring of academic programs

2. Resizing of programs and the workforce

3. Recalibration of growth objectives

4. Realignment of funding sources with mission activities

UCAD will approach these issues analytically, drawing on the expertise of Senate and administrative leaders, and will consult broadly as needed to ensure a wide range of perspectives.

An initial report will be submitted to the Academic Council by **June 18, 2025**. At this time, UCAD is expected to continue its work into the fall, with extensions as needed. Given the sensitive and rapidly evolving nature of this work, all meetings are being held in executive session to support open and candid discussions.

We recognize the importance of communicating with the broader Senate and faculty community. To this end, a UCAD webpage has been established and is where the task force will post information about its charge, membership, goals, and shareable updates: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/committees/ucad.html. The webpage also includes an email address (AcademicSenateUCAD@ucop.edu) where members of the University community may submit input or questions for the task force to consider.

We encourage divisional Senate offices and chairs to help raise awareness of UCAD's purpose and activities through local communication channels. Thank you for your engagement with this important work. We look forward to keeping you informed as UCAD's efforts progress.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu

Chair, UCAD

cc: UCAD, Senate Executive Director Lin

Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/council/council-vice-chair-to-senate-divisions-re-ucad.pdf.

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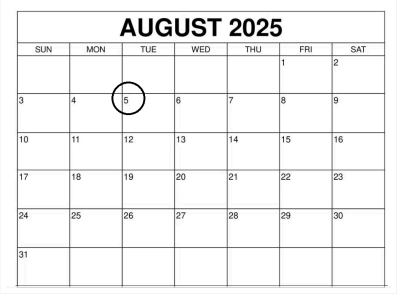
You will note that the document above mentions an initial report for the Academic Council by June 18. The charging document says there will be an initial report on July 16. Whichever it was, both dates have passed and no report can be found on the Senate's website or the task force website. Just an observation...

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UC

**Friday, August 1, 2025**

## Double D-Day (Deadline Decision)




Earlier today, we reprinted Chancellor Frenk's email of yesterday evening concerning the cutoff of funding from the feds. There is also this from the LA Times:

*...The Department of Justice said this week that it had found UCLA guilty of violating the civil rights of Jewish and Israeli students. The department also indicated that it wanted to the university to enter into negotiations to avoid a federal lawsuit.*

***The department gave UCLA a Tuesday deadline to communicate its desire to negotiate. If not, the DOJ said, it was ready to sue by Sept. 2.***

*The University of California, in a statement, was unclear on whether it would settle or go to court.*

*"UCLA has addressed and will continue to address the issues raised in [the] Department of Justice notice," Stett Holbrook, associate director of Strategic and Critical Communications, wrote in a statement Wednesday. He cited a $6.45-million settlement the university reached with Jewish students who had sued over claims that the 2024 encampment had discriminated against them. "We have cooperated fully with the Department of Justice's investigation and are reviewing its findings closely," Holbrook wrote...*

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-07-31/trump-freezes-nih-nsf-funding-ucla.

It should be noted that although the deadline was specified as next Tuesday, DOJ says that if there are no negotiations, it would sue by September 2. So the actual deadline appears to be softer than August 5.*

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*The text reads:

*If you are interested in resolving this matter along these lines, please contact please reach out to Senior Counsel Jeffrey Morrison (jeffrey.morrison@usdoj.gov and (202) 598-515) by August 5, 2025. Unless there is reasonable certainty that we can reach an agreement in this matter, the United States is prepared to file a complaint in federal district court by September 2, 2025.*

Source: https://www.justice.gov/crt/media/1409416/dl?inline.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:34 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UCLA

# New UCLA Police Chief

**Craig Valenzuela appointed UCLA chief of police**

*The Bruin alum returns to campus after nearly three decades with the LAPD*

UCLA Newsroom

July 28, 2025

Craig Valenzuela, a UCLA alumnus and veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department with broad experience in community-focused law enforcement leadership, has been selected as the new chief of the university's police department, Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus and Community Safety Steve Lurie announced today.

Valenzuela will begin his new role on Sept. 1.

"I am pleased to welcome Chief Valenzuela back to UCLA to serve in this critical role," Chancellor Julio Frenk said. "The safety of our UCLA community is a top priority, and Chief Valenzuela's accomplishments during over two decades of law enforcement leadership make him an ideal leader for UCLA's police department. As our new Office of Campus and Community Safety continues to grow and as UCLA prepares to host the world's Olympic and Paralympic athletes in 2028, I know Chief Valenzuela will elevate safety in a way that is inclusive and grounded in the tenets of 21st-century policing."

Valenzuela, who grew up in Harbor City in the South Bay, joined the LAPD in 1996 after earning a bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA. Over the course of his career, he has served in a variety of leadership roles with the department, including as commanding officer of the North Hollywood Patrol Division and the elite Metropolitan Division. As a commander, he led and mentored commanding officers in the San Fernando Valley, South Los Angeles and with the department's traffic group.

Valenzuela is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, widely regarded as the world's top law enforcement executive training program; the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, run by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training; and the LAPD's Command Development Program. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

"I am thrilled to welcome Chief Valenzuela back to UCLA," Lurie said. "He participated in a nationwide search, competing among exemplary leaders from across the country. Chancellor Frenk has stated that UCLA's safety and security is his 'meta-priority.' As the administrator charged with carrying out that mission, I am humbled, honored and grateful to have Chief Valenzuela join our team."

The new chief was selected by a committee that included faculty, administrators, students and staff from UCLA and experienced law enforcement executives. He will take over from UCLA's Interim Chief Scott Scheffler, who has headed the department since December 2024.

"The opportunity to come home to UCLA, to work at this police department with these dedicated professionals, is the thrill of a lifetime," Valenzuela said. "I cannot wait to partner with our students, faculty and staff in keeping UCLA safe."

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Source: https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/craig-valenzuela-appointed-ucla-chief-of-police.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

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